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Senate

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Percell Church, Jr., of the Zion United Methodist Church in North Las Vegas, NV.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

May we bow with humility in prayer. Eternal and Everlasting God, we approach You today with reverence, sincerity, and hope, knowing that You are our source and strength in this world. Your sovereign hand continues to create opportunity while the almighty wind of Your spirit propels us into our destiny. It is You who has made us in Your image and for Your pleasure, and for that alone we are grateful and thankful.

We acknowledge and center ourselves in this time of prayer that though we are living in the heat of calamity, You are the calm that cools, cares, and constructs a divine citadel. It is through the sagacity of Your spirit we are ushered into a place where we experience the forgiving nature of a true and loving Lord. And yet, with intentionality and precision, You cause those things which have made us stumble to somehow sustain, support, and strengthen our faith in You.

Lord God, we ask a special blessing for our Senators. You have ordained this group of "servants of the people" to lead our Nation and bless our world. As they live out the course of their tenure, please continue to bless their families and respectful constituencies.

It is in Your Name, power, and glory we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 22, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this morning, we will resume debate on the Defense authorization bill. Chairman WARNER is here, and Senator LEVIN just walked into the Chamber. He is here as well. They will be here to manage the bill this morning. Senators are expected to come over and offer several amendments. Although no roll-

calls will occur today, the managers will be able to accept amendments which have been cleared on both sides of the aisle.

We will file a cloture motion today, which will be ready for a vote on Tuesday. This will allow us to finish the bill next week. If we invoke cloture, Senators will still be able to offer their amendments, and we would still be ensured we could proceed to passage sometime before the August recess.

As the majority leader has repeated, we have a number of items to consider over these last days prior to our departure for the month of August. I will say more on next week's schedule at closing, but Senators should be ready for a long week next week. I do not believe anyone should be preparing for any early departures, and that includes next Friday.

I remind our colleagues we will be voting Monday evening. We have not yet set any votes at that time. However, we do expect a vote or votes to occur on Monday.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

WELCOMING OUR GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is a pleasure for me to be here this morning to recognize Dr. Percell Church. As has been indicated by the Chair, he is the leader of the Zion United Methodist Church in Las Vegas.

When he came to Las Vegas a short time ago, in relative terms, he had some very big shoes to fill. The Zion United Methodist Church had been operated, pastored, by one of Nevada's very famous residents, Marion Bennett, who had served with great distinction

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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